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tion and a report of his investigation of the case to the court, which has authority, if necessary, to re-take and arraign the person.

If, on the other hand, the investigation by the field officer shows that the man arrested has been arrested before for public intoxication within twelve months, the bill allows the court to place the defendant on probation or to require him, while on probation, to pay a fine in instalments. If the man fails to respond to either of these methods, the plan provides that the court may commit the defendant to an industrial colony or hospital, conducted by the board of inebriety, on an indeterminate sentence of six months to two years. The board of inebriety may, whenever desirable, release any inmate of such a colony or hospital on parole.

Another feature of the bill is that it permits chronic drunkards or persons addicted to the habitual use of narcotic drugs, or members of their families, to petition the board of inebriety to admit such inebriates to the hospital or colony for treatment, without being committed by court.

The bill is endorsed by the state lunacy commission, the state board of charities, various city departments, and physicians, penologists and social workers.

ARTHUR W. TOWNE.

Legislative Reference. The National Civic Federation's Conference on Uniform State Legislation, held in Washington, January 16-19, 1910, among its resolutions, passed the following: "*Resolved*, That we recognize the system of legislative reference bureaus as one of the important agencies to bring about greater uniformity of legislation, and that we urge the states which have established such bureaus to develop them further and those which have not yet done so to forthwith establish them." Following upon the recognition and commendation of such a body as the National Conference on Uniform Legislation, a brief survey of the field of legislative reference may be timely.

To say that each state library in the country should serve its state, to some degree, either through individuals, or through its official, judicial and legislative bodies, as a legislative reference library, is only a just interpretation of the original purposes which these libraries were, for the most part, created to fulfill, whether they consist of a law library solely, a collection of historical and archival material, a general library, or combinations of these and other phases. But, without disputing the claim of any state library of any type to be in itself a bureau of legislative reference, the accepted meaning of the phrase "legislative reference" has, in the past few years narrowed and deepened until it has come to

stand for so distinct a type of reference work, that, regardless of the generalities in which it originated, and regardless of whether it is a part of the work of the state library, state department of history or state library commission, or is even a city bureau, it has developed its own aims, its own field, its own specialists, its own devices and consequently its own history. To any library with a definite purpose of serving the makers and interpreters of the laws of the state, the establishment of a legislative reference bureau is a logical step, which once taken, more than proves its right to exist.

Alabama, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin, all have departments of legislative reference created by special act. (The Maryland department, although created by the legislature, is a bureau of the city of Baltimore, which grants it a yearly appropriation). Of these special acts, those of Indiana, Michigan, Montana, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin include a special appropriation, while the states which make a special appropriation for the work without a special act creating the department are Iowa and Kansas. Of the statutes creating departments, the Indiana, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin laws include the drafting of bills in the definition of duties. New York, the pioneer state in legislative reference work, and with Wisconsin the foremost in the field, has neither special act or appropriation, the department being an expansion of the state library and under its control. California, Connecticut, Oregon, Washington, and Virginia, are also states in which the state library—in Oregon, the state library commission—has broadened its work to include special legislative reference, without special statute or funds. In California, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas and Virginia, the legislative reference bureau is a part of the state library; the state library commission has the department of legislative reference in North Dakota, Oregon and Wisconsin; while in Alabama and Nebraska the state historical department has developed the legislative reference bureau.

The special appropriations granted vary from \$15,000 in Wisconsin to small sums merely covering the salary of the director, or clerical hire.

Governor Draper, in his message of January 6, 1910, to the General Court of Massachusetts, recommended an additional appropriation to the state library to meet the extra expense of legislative reference work.

In Ohio a bill is now before the general assembly, which, if successful, will add a legislative reference bureau to the Ohio State Library.

ETHEL CLELAND.

Municipal Charter Revision—Chicago. Chicago is experiencing considerable difficulty in securing a new charter. The charter drafted by the charter convention of 1906 was so mutilated by the state legislature that it was overwhelmingly defeated when submitted to the voters of the city. The charter convention pursued a different policy this year, for, instead of submitting a charter or charter amendments as an entirety, eleven separate bills or amendments were proposed, thus giving not only the legislature but the voters as well an opportunity to vote on the merits of each proposition. The voters, however, had no opportunity to pass judgment, since all of the bills were killed in the legislature. This is but another instance to show how dependent most cities are on the state legislature for charter legislation. It is only necessary to contrast the position of Chicago with that of Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities which have the power to frame their own charters to show what an advantage the latter have over the former.

The general scope and purpose of the proposed charter bills were to consolidate the present, and to confer additional, powers upon the city. Chicago is already quite democratic in the broad sense of the term, and the tendency, as evidenced by the proposed bills, is to make it still more democratic. Instead of showing a fear of the people, the proposed measures evidence confidence in them, for provision is made for giving the people the right to voice their sentiments in regard to certain matters of legislation. In addition to having the power to pass on the charter bills it was further provided that the people should have the opportunity to accept or reject ordinances relating to certain subjects. No provision relative to the closing or keeping open of places on Sunday for the sale of intoxicating liquors can take effect until the people are given an opportunity to vote upon it separately from any other proposition. No ordinance granting a public utility franchise for a longer period than five years shall go into effect until sixty days after its passage, and if within that time a petition is signed by 10 per cent of the registered voters, the ordinance must be submitted to the voters.

The city is given power to acquire, own, construct, maintain and operate all public utilities, or to lease the same for a period not longer than twenty years. It was also provided in one of the bills that the